

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An intra-vascular balloon, comprising:
a balloon body; and
at least one springy and elongate stave, made of a different material from the balloon, attached to said balloon and conforming to a surface of said balloon, such that said stave can apply contact force to an object in contact with said balloon.
2. (Original) A balloon according to claim 1, wherein said balloon is elongate and wherein said stave is provided along a long dimension of said balloon.
3. (Original) A balloon according to claim 1, comprising a tether attached to said balloon.
4. (Original) A balloon according to claim 1, wherein said at least one stave comprise a plurality of staves arranged around said balloon.
5. (Original) A balloon according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of staves are attached to each other at their ends.
6. (Original) A balloon according to claim 5, wherein said staves modify a geometry of said balloon when not inflated.
7. (Original) A balloon according to claim 6, wherein said staves are configured to compact said balloon in a resting condition thereof.
8. (Original) A balloon according to claim 6, wherein said staves are configured to apply radially outwards pressure in a resting condition thereof.
9. (Original) A balloon according to claim 5, wherein said staves are distortable by an expansion of said balloon.

10. (Original) A balloon according to claim 1, wherein said balloon is formed of an elastic material.

11. (Original) A balloon according to claim 4, wherein said plurality of staves are configured to substantially surround said balloon when said balloon is collapsed.

12. (Currently Amended) A vascular implant, comprising:

a flexible band having a diameter suitable for implantation in a blood vessel, surrounding a flow passage through which blood flows at a restricted rate when the implant is implanted in the blood vessel; and

a plurality of elongate axial elements mounted on said band.

13. (Original) An implant according to claim 12, wherein said flexible band is thin.

14. (Original) An implant according to claim 12, wherein said flexible band has a thickness suitable for restricting blood flow.

15. (Original) An implant according to claim 12, wherein said flexible band has a length substantially smaller than a length of said elements.

16. (Original) An implant according to claim 12, wherein said flexible band is elastic.

17. (Original) A blood flow reducing implant, comprising a body defining a flow channel having an cross-section which is progressively restricted along an axial direction, in which the smallest diameter of a cross-section is sized for passage of a guidewire and blockage of substantially all blood-flow therethrough.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) An implant according to claim 17, wherein said smallest diameter blocks over 95% of blood flow through said implant.

20. (Original) An implant according to claim 17, wherein said smallest diameter is restricted by an elastic sheath.

21. (New) A vascular implant, comprising:

a flexible band having a diameter suitable for implantation in a blood vessel and
a plurality of elongate axial elements mounted around the outside of said band.

22. (New) A vascular implant according to claim 12, wherein said plurality of elongate axial elements are mounted around the outside of said band.